

Information Event supported by



Career Development Centre

Extern Justice Projects 2020

Extern Group / Northern Ireland

Extern in the Republic of Ireland



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Who we are

We transform lives as the leading social justice charity across the island of Ireland. Operating since 1978, we believe another chance can change a life.

Each year we speak up for and support more than 19,500 children, young people, individuals and families. We enable them to overcome their challenges, empower positive change and support family unity.

For more than 40 years we have been standing shoulder to shoulder with people as we support them to transform their lives, creating safer communities for us all.

Who we help

- We offer a unique continuum of specialist and dedicated services covering a wide range of areas:
- Young People and Families
- Housing and Homelessness
- Mental Health & Suicide
- Alcohol & Drugs
- Minority Communities
- Justice Services
- Skills/Employability

Extern Mission and Ethos

Our Mission

- Transforming Lives
- Transforming Society

Our Ethos

- We are life-changing
- We bring solutions
- We are forward-looking
- We deliver quality
- We are trustworthy

We employ more than 500 compassionate, innovative, professional, and dedicated staff across the island of Ireland. Every day they are proud to demonstrate our staff values in their work.

Underpinning Theories of Extern projects

Social Ecology: This focuses on finding ways to access supports from social ecologies for those experiencing difficulties. Social ecology is inclusive of all of society, local communities and families. *Extern services focus primarily on the young person's family and community ecology in relation to development of interventions.*

Resilience: This model emphasises the strengths and resiliency of individuals, families and communities to bounce back in the face of adversity. It focuses on identifying people's strengths and building on those rather than an undue preoccupation with weaknesses and problems. *Key workers focus on creating circumstances and environments which help develop resilient young people who have the confidence and skills to negotiate their environment at home, at school and in their local communities.*

Underpinning Theories continued

Social Support: informal and formal social supports are essential, and can be more so for highly vulnerable young people as they can act as protective factors in a young person's life. There are various forms of social supports including family, friends, community and school or work. *Extern recognises the central importance of these supports and aims to assist both access to and development of connections to them.*

Reflective Practice: This is a conscious process of ensuring that time is taken to consider work that has been completed and identifying what has worked well and what requires improvement. Extern has this as a required element of all individual staff supervision and also as a key component within Team meetings. This ensures that learning occurs for all in regard to their Professional practice, and also for the Organisation in regards to best practice approaches.

Interventive Relationship: This is developed through shared engagement between the child and their keyworker which nurtures rapport and helps the child to feel safe and to engage in exploration and reflection on their recent difficulties.

Youth Justice Projects

The Children's Act 2001 gives Youth Justice work a statutory footing.

It supports An Garda Síochána and Juvenile Liaison Officers in the implementation of the Garda Youth Diversion Programme.

We work in Partnership to achieve our vision and mission.

We engage with and work in partnership with statutory, community and voluntary organisations and the communities in which the young people and families live.

Extern currently have GYDP's in the North Dublin, Limerick and Kildare counties.



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What is Garda Youth Diversion Project (GYDP)?

- GYDP's are community based youth crime preventive initiatives.
- Which seek to divert young people from crime and anti social behaviour.
- To provide positive alternatives to crime.
- Promote civic responsibility.
- Increase employability prospects.
- Working with young people aged 12- 17 years old.

The three expected outcomes for all GYDP's are:

1. Reduce impulsivity,
2. Improve empathy,
3. Improve pro-social behaviour.

What the project does.....

Individual work

Individual work aims to facilitate the young person to engage with and take responsibility for their social and personal development.

Group Work

Group work is a form of co- operative learning where young people are facilitated to help each other develop knowledge attitudes and life skills that give them insight into criminal and anti- social behaviour and support them to make positive life choices e.g
Drug and Alcohol Awareness Programmes, Decision Making, Relationships, Crime Prevention etc.

Educational Support

This supports the young person around school attainment, looking at alternative education training/ employability options.

Pro-social activities

This is an opportunity to do activities you enjoy or to learn a new skill or improve existing skills e.g. cooking, art, outdoor pursuits etc.

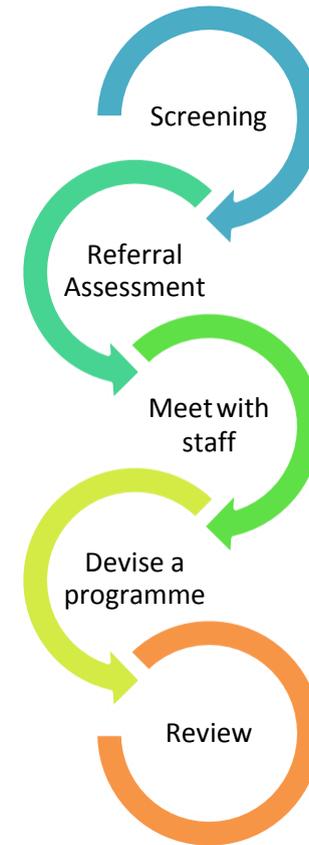
Who can make a referral?

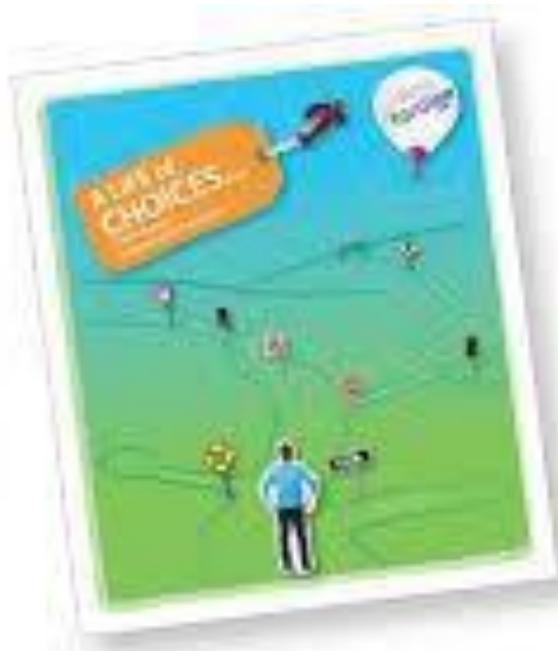
The project accepts referrals from:

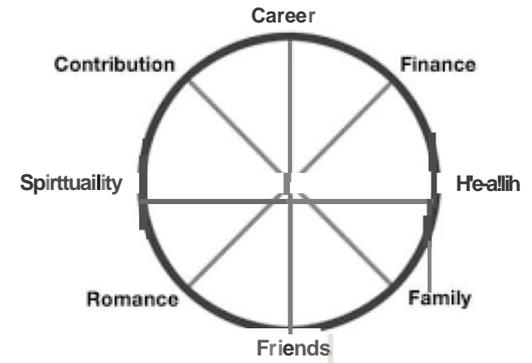
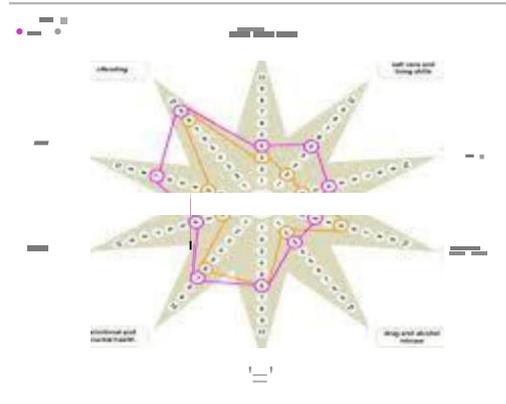
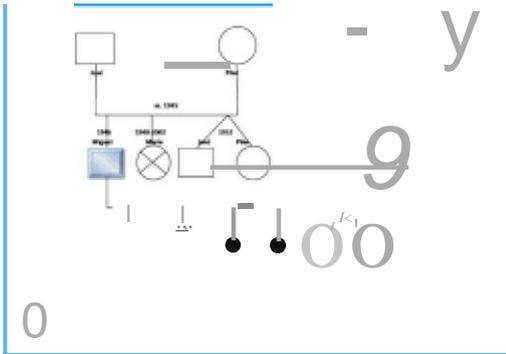
- Juvenile Liaison Officer
- Education Welfare Officer
- Probation Officer
- School / Youthreach
- Family / Self
- Community Based Organisations

What happens the referrals.....

- Each referral must undergo a screening process to identify their suitability for the Project.
- Once suitable the young person and their family will meet with a Youth Justice worker from the project.
- Together they will devise a programme plan which will meet the young person's needs.
- Reviews of programme plans will occur on a regular basis.



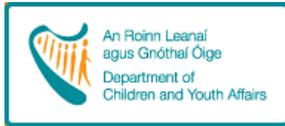






While learning to drive the powerboats the group are learning a number of things:

- New life long skills
- Importance of communication
- Respect for other water users
- Being part of a positive community of interest
- Respect for the sea
- Listening and following instructions
- Teamwork and peer support
- Safety checks, procedures and patients
- Self confidence



Bail Supervision Scheme

Incorporating



What is Bail Supervision?

Support for young people who are on bail awaiting finalisation of their charges.



- Court Proceedings: Small Minority deemed unsuitable for Diversion –Sent to District Children’s Court – Can then be sent on to Circuit Court.
- Bail: Most children are granted bail until their cases are heard.
- Due to seriousness of charges, previous bail breaches, history of bench warrants or re-offending on bail there may be Garda **objections to bail or bail may be revoked.**
- Remand in Custody: A small minority of young people who have had bail revoked or refused can be remanded into detention until their case is heard.



What is Multisystemic Therapy – MST?

- MST is a globally recognised, evidence-based model, which has been in operation for over 30 years.
- It is a model of practice that aims to reduce the anti-social behaviour of persistent, high level young offenders.
- MST has a proven track record of achieving positive outcomes for these young people by keeping them at home, in education and out of trouble using the systems around the young person.



Extern Delivering MST

- Have an allocated MST therapist per family
- Small case loads
- Provide Intensive support
- 24/7 on-call support
- Home/community based service to remove barriers to access
- Evidence-based interventions – CBT, Behaviour Therapy, Contingency management, structural family therapy etc
- Facilitate family involvement in treatment
- Empower parents to address the needs of their child
- Promote the long-term maintenance of positive change
- Collaborate with key figures (Family, Community, Case Managers, Tusla, Probation, Education etc.)
- Treatment lasts 3-5 months
- Stringent Quality Assurance Measures



Evaluation Findings of BSS

- 72% reduction in in reoffending among young people taking part in the scheme.
- 85% of young people who successfully completed the programme were given non-custodial sentences.
- An average reduction in criminal detections which was twice that of the control group of young people not enrolled.
- Evidence of improved adherence to bail conditions among young people.
- Reduced levels of drug use and aggressive behaviour for some of those enrolled.





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Questions & Answers

*Thank
you*